

**Amendments to the Claims:**

Please replace the pending claims with the following claims:

1.-14. (cancelled)

15. (currently amended) A method of preparing an immunogenic composition comprising

[I]] combining ~~a heterogeneous hydrophobic polypeptide to the N-terminus and/or the C-terminus of a core polypeptide thereby forming a fusion protein; and~~

~~ii) mixing said fusion protein with a saponin adjuvant in a free form, thereby~~  
forming said immunogenic composition; wherein said fusion protein comprises a *Babesia* Bd37 polypeptide and a decay accelerating factor peptide

~~wherein said heterogeneous hydrophobic polypeptide has a hydrophobicity of 0.6 or more as determined by dividing (a) by (b);~~

~~wherein (a) is the number of hydrophobic data points of said heterogeneous~~

~~hydrophobic polypeptide as determined using the Kyte-Doolittle hydrophobicity~~

~~analysis using a window of 5 amino acids, and (b) is the total number of amino~~

~~acids of said heterogeneous hydrophobic polypeptide; and~~

~~wherein said core polypeptide has a protective epitope.~~

16.-22. (cancelled)

23. (previously presented) The method according to claim 15, wherein the saponin adjuvant is Quillaja saponin.
24. (previously presented) A method of preparing a vaccine comprising admixing the immunogenic composition made according to the method of claim 15 with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.
25. (previously presented) The method of claim 24, wherein at least one additional immunoactive component is combined with said vaccine.
26. (previously presented) The method of claim 24, wherein said vaccine is freeze-dried.
- 27.-28. (cancelled)
29. (new) The method of claim 15, wherein the *Babesia* Bd37 polypeptide comprises amino acids 25-316 of NCBI accession no. CAD19563.
30. (new) The method of claim 15, wherein the decay accelerating factor peptide comprises SEQ ID. No. 14.

31. (new) The method of claim 15, wherein the *Babesia* Bd37 polypeptide comprises amino acids 25-316 of NCBI accession no. CAD19563 and the decay accelerating factor peptide comprises SEQ ID. No. 14.
32. (new) An immunogenic composition comprising:
- i) a fusion protein comprising a *Babesia* Bd37 polypeptide and a decay accelerating factor peptide; and
  - ii) a saponin adjuvant in a free form.
33. (new) The immunogenic composition according to claim 32, wherein the saponin adjuvant is Quillaja saponin.
34. (new) A vaccine comprising the immunogenic composition according to claim 32, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.
35. (new) The vaccine according to claim 34, further comprising at least one additional immunoactive component.
36. (new) The vaccine of claim 34, wherein said vaccine is freeze-dried.

37. (new) The immunogenic composition of claim 32, wherein the *Babesia* Bd37 polypeptide comprises amino acids 25-316 of NCBI accession no. CAD19563.

38. (new) The immunogenic composition of claim 32, wherein the decay accelerating factor peptide comprises SEQ ID. No. 14.

39. (new) The immunogenic composition of claim 32, wherein the *Babesia* Bd37 polypeptide comprises amino acids 25-316 of NCBI accession no. CAD19563 and the decay accelerating factor peptide comprises SEQ ID. No. 14.